

Mr. R. D. Hoyt of Seven Oaks, Hillsboro County, Florida, writes me under date of Oct. 19, 1907: "No, I have never taken the Barn Owl here, and September seems a queer time for them to nest in South Carolina. This owl is very plentiful in the Cape Sable region, Florida. Two years ago I saw as many as eight or ten at a time flying over the marshes just at dusk, and it would be interesting to know when they breed in that country, as there is no timber to speak of, and in the daytime the owls roost in the grass, the same as Short-eared [*Asio accipitrinus*]."

I am indebted to my friend Mr. Herbert Ravenel Sass for transcribing Audubon's account in his 'Ornithological Biography.'

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## SUMMER BIRDS OF SOUTHWESTERN SASKATCHEWAN.<sup>1</sup>

BY A. C. BENT.

77. **Asio wilsonianus.** AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL.—Only one pair was found. On June 2, 1905, I climbed to an old Roughleg's nest, about 14 feet up in a solitary poplar tree, on Bear Creek, and as I looked over the edge of the nest I was surprised to see a Long-eared Owl staring me in the face. I pushed her to one side and saw that she was sitting on 5 eggs which were on the point of hatching.

78. **Asio accipitrinus.** SHORT-EARED OWL.—Uncommon. About 3 or 4 pairs were located but only one nest was found. This was on the duck island in Crane Lake, and on June 13, 1905, it contained one egg and 9 young in various stages of growth. The nest was surrounded with a great lot of blackbird feathers.

79. **Bubo virginianus arcticus.** ARCTIC HORNED OWL.—One pair of Horned Owls was located in 1905, and at least two pairs in 1906, in the heavier timber on Maple and Skull Creeks. One pair had occupied one of the old heron's nests in the Great Blue Heron rookery on Skull Creek and at the time we found it, June 5, 1905, the young had just left the nest; the female and one of the young were secured. The owls seemed to live in harmony with the herons, for there was an occupied heron's nest in the

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<sup>1</sup> Concluded from Vol. XXIV, p. 430.

next tree, about 15 feet away. Two more adult Horned Owls were collected on June 25 and 30, 1906.

All of our birds are very light colored, particularly above, where they are fully as light as the average and almost as light as the most typical *arcticus*. On the under parts, however, there is more ochraceous and less pure white than there should be. The legs and feet are somewhat clouded with pale ochraceous and the legs faintly barred with dusky.

If we recognize the large pale owls of the northern prairie States as *occidentalis* Stone, and admit, as Mr. Oberholser claims, that it has both a dark and a light phase, then our birds should, in my opinion, be referred to *occidentalis*, as being nearer that than pure *arcticus*. The status of our birds depends on the relative importance of the characters named, and as they are more or less intermediate between these two forms, I prefer to let them stand as above, for the present at least.

80. *Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa*. BURROWING OWL.—Only 3 pairs were located. A pair was found breeding on the prairie near Crane Lake, and the nest was dug out on June 2, 1905, containing 7 fresh eggs. Birds were also seen at Hay Lake and near Maple Creek. A nest with young was found near Many Island Lake on July 13, 1906.

81. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.—This species was recorded by Prof. Macoun as far west as Medicine Hat. A Black-billed Cuckoo was seen by Mr. Day in the Skull Creek timber on June 9, 1905. None were collected and no others seen.

82. *Ceryle alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER.—Prof. Macoun recorded it as common. Dr. Bishop saw one in Maple Creek on June 16 and another there on July 4, 1906. None were collected.

83. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Rare. Mr. Day saw one in the Skull Creek timber on June 9, 1905, and Dr. Dwight collected one in the Big Stick timber on July 19, 1906.

84. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. NORTHERN FLICKER.

85. *Colaptes cafer collaris*. RED-SHAFTED FLICKER.—Flickers were very common in the heavy timber along the creeks and were also seen in the Cypress Hills. A nest with 6 fresh eggs was found on May 30, 1905, and nests with young were found on June 5 and 14, 1906.

Practically pure blooded birds of both species were taken and quite a series of hybrid birds showing all the intermediate grades of plumage. Almost all of the males show some traces of the red moustaches of *cafer*, and nearly all show traces of the red nuchal crescent of *auratus*; the other characters seem to be less constant. I collected in 1905 a pure blooded male *auratus*, which was apparently mated, with a nearly pure blooded *cafer* female. Two young in juvenal plumage, one almost pure *cafer* and the other equally near *auratus*, were taken from the same family on June 30, 1906.

86. *Chordeiles virginianus*. NIGHTHAWK.—An adult male was taken by Dr. Bishop at Maple Creek on June 5, 1906, which he called this form. All the others that we took were referred to *sennetti*.

Prof. Macoun called the birds of this region *henryi*, which I am inclined to think was an error. Probably the bird we took on June 5 was migrating, as I believe *virginianus* is the form found farther north in the timbered regions.

87. *Chordeiles virginianus sennetti*. SENNETT'S NIGHTHAWK.— Common in and near the timber belts. None had arrived on June 1, 1905, but they were common on June 5, 1906. A female with eggs was taken in the Big Stick timber on July 19, 1906.

88. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD.— Common. Found breeding in the timber on Maple and Skull Creeks, also noted in rows of small trees, set out along roadsides and about the ranches. Nests with eggs found June 12, 1905, and June 25, 1906.

89. *Tyrannus verticalis*. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD.— Not quite so common as the preceding in the timber on Maple and Skull Creeks, nesting principally in the larger trees. Nests found, empty on June 12, 1905, and with fresh eggs on June 14, 1905, and June 18, 1906. Noisy and conspicuous birds. They seemed to disappear in July, as the others were not able to collect any during that month.

90. *Sayornis saya*. SAY'S PHEBE.— Uncommon; three pairs located in 1905 and 2 pairs in 1906 about the ranches. A nest was found under a bridge on May 30, 1905. Two nests with fresh eggs were found under the eaves of buildings on June 5 and 10, 1905, and a nest with large young was found inside a small shed on June 24, 1906.

91. *Nuttallornis borealis*. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.— On June 8, 1906, after a prolonged and very heavy rain fall, lasting several days and causing Maple Creek to overflow its banks and flood the surrounding plains, we noticed a heavy flight or wave of migrating small birds in the timber along this creek. Among a number of species collected that day and not seen again were 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers, probably belated migrants.

92. *Contopus richardsonii*. WESTERN WOOD PEWEE.— Dr. Bishop took an adult female in the Cypress Hills on July 27, 1906.

93. *Empidonax traillii alnorum*. ALDER FLYCATCHER.— Dr. Bishop referred to this form an adult female which he took in the Cypress Hills on July 27, 1906. This form may also have occurred in the timber on the creeks, but none were collected there. Prof. Macoun called his birds from this region *traillii*.

94. *Empidonax minimus*. LEAST FLYCATCHER.— Very common in the timber on Maple and Skull Creeks. All the small flycatchers that we collected here were this species. One nest was found with 3 fresh eggs on June 25, 1906.

95. *Empidonax wrightii*. WRIGHT'S FLYCATCHER.— Dr. Bishop found it common, with half fledged young, in the Cypress Hills, from July 25 to 30, 1906, and collected a number of specimens. Not collected elsewhere.

96. *Otocoris alpestris leucolæma*. DESERT HORNED LARK.— Very common on the prairies, particularly on the barren hills north of Maple

Creek and on the alkaline plains. No nests were found but fully fledged young, in juvenal plumage, were taken as early as June 13, 1906.

The birds of this region are intermediate between this form and *Otocoris alpestris enthymia* Oberholser. We collected quite a series of Horned Larks most of which, particularly those collected on the prairies in the eastern portion of the region we visited, were nearer *enthymia*, while those collected on the alkaline, sage-brush plains of western Saskatchewan and in Alberta were more typical of *leucolæma*.

This new form described by Mr. Oberholser in 1902 and first noted by Dr. Bishop in North Dakota in 1895, seems to be well marked and worthy of recognition, as the bird of the northern prairie region. But as it has not yet been formally accepted I must list our birds as *leucolæma* (Coues).

97. ***Pica pica hudsonia***. AMERICAN MAGPIE.—Magpies were recorded at various points in this region by Prof. Macoun, and we were told by various residents that we should find them in the timber belts, but we failed to see any of them either season. Our only evidence of their occurrence is contained in the following quotation from Dr. Bishop: — “I found the deserted nest of a Magpie about 8 feet up in a clump of willows in the Big Stick timber on July 19. Dwight climbed high enough to see that it was domed.”

98. ***Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis***. CALIFORNIA CROW.—A few pairs of Crows were noted, mostly near Crane Lake. Nests containing young were found on June 13 and 17, 1905, and on June 23, 25 and 27, 1906. Dr. Bishop says, “an adult male taken at Walsh, Alberta, July 12, is smaller, with smaller bill, than southern California examples of *hesperis*.”

99. ***Dolichonyx oryzivorus***. BOBOLINK.—Prof. Macoun found it at the east end of the Cypress Hills in 1894. I saw one at Crane Lake on June 13, 1905, but did not secure it. No others were seen.

100. ***Molothrus ater***. COWBIRD.—Very abundant on the prairies, about the ranches and in the timber. Eggs were found in the nests of Western Vesper Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow and Western Savanna Sparrow. In one nest of the latter, found on June 23, 1906, were 4 eggs of the Cowbird and none of those of the rightful owner.

101. ***Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus***. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.—Very abundant in all of the sloughs and on the meadows and prairies surrounding them. Probably the most abundant bird of the whole region, certainly the most numerous in the localities it inhabits, where it fairly swarms. Hundreds of their nests were found in the bulrushes and flags, where the constant din of their voices was the dominant sound, and their striking colors made them always conspicuous. Nests containing eggs were found all through June and some of the young were able to fly as early as June 13, 1905.

102. ***Agelaius phœniceus fortis***. THICK-BILLED REDWING.—Very common around the sloughs and along the creeks, nesting in the flags and long grasses on the edges of the sloughs and in the shallower portions. Nests with eggs were found as early as June 5, 1905.

The series of Redwings that we collected proved very puzzling but we finally decided to refer them to this form, though they were far from typical.

Geographically they should be included under the new northern race, *arctolegus*, as described by Mr. Oberholser in a recent number of 'The Auk.' The measurements of my birds agree very closely with those given for *arctolegus* and they are certainly nearer to this form than to *fortis*, as he gives them.

I should hesitate to recommend the recognition of still another form in a group in which the distinctions are already so finely drawn, but am inclined to think that our birds are referable to *arctolegus* and will help to strengthen its validity as a subspecies.

103. ***Sturnella magna neglecta***. WESTERN MEADOWLARK.—Abundant on the prairies. Frequently seen sitting on some wayside fence post or telegraph pole, pouring out its rich and beautiful song, a constant source of delight to the prairie traveler. Three nests were found in the long prairie grass, on June 6, 1905, and on June 18 and 24, 1906, each containing 5 or 6 fresh eggs. On July 18, 1906, Dr. Bishop caught a fully fledged young bird, that had been bathing in a lake and was so water soaked that it could not fly.

104. ***Icterus galbula***. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—Rare in the timber on Maple Creek. None were collected, but I saw two or three birds each season which I was quite sure were this species, May 29 and June 14, 1905, and June 5 and 30, 1906. I also found an empty new nest there on June 14, 1905.

Both Dr. Bishop and Dr. Dwight doubted my identifications as they did not collect any. But according to Prof. Macoun this species is common here, and specimens were taken by Mr. Spreadborough at Indian Head and Old Wives Creek in 1895.

105. ***Icterus bullocki***. BULLOCK'S ORIOLE.—The only oriole taken was reported by Dr. Bishop as follows: "I shot a male along the timber near Maple Creek on July 2. This bird is typical [*bullocki*] except that it has the malar region, auriculars and sides of head black and many feathers of sides of neck tipped with black. Probably a hybrid with *galbula*." This may have been one of the birds that I saw and took to be *galbula*. Prof. Macoun says: "Breeding in considerable numbers in trees in the valley of the Saskatchewan at Police Point, Medicine Hat, Assa., May, 1894; not noticed further east."

Probably *galbula* reaches its western limit and *bullocki* its eastern limit somewhere in this vicinity.

106. ***Scolecophagus cyanocephalus***. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD.—Very abundant in the timber along the creeks, much in evidence and constantly scolding at us. Breeds in the low thick underbrush on the edges of the timber where its nests were so well concealed that we found only one. This contained 5 young on June 30, 1906.

107. ***Quiscalus quiscula æneus***. BRONZED GRACKLE.—Uncommon in



the timber on Maple and Skull Creeks. One nest was found, in a natural cavity in a box elder tree, containing 5 fresh eggs on June 1, 1905.

108. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. AMERICAN CROSSBILL.— Prof. Macoun reported this species as seen in flocks in the Cypress Hills in June in 1894 and 1895.

On May 31, 1905, I saw a flock of 6 crossbills flying over me among the pines in the Cypress Hills which I suppose were this species, though none were collected.

109. *Astragalinus tristis*. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.— A pair were taken on Maple Creek on June 30, 1906.

110. *Astragalinus tristis pallidus*. PALE GOLDFINCH.— Goldfinches were fairly common in the timber, especially along Maple Creek, and with the exception of the pair referred to above, all proved to be much nearer *pallidus* than *tristis*. Prof. Macoun, however, recorded *tristis* only.

111. *Spinus pinus*. PINE SISKIN.— I did not see this species at all either season. Dr. Bishop says: "I collected one young of two birds along the timber at Maple Creek on July 2. On July 26 I secured two young birds from a small flock in the Cypress Hills, and heard others occasionally there on other dates."

112. *Calcarius ornatus*. CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR.— Very common on the prairies. This and the following species were a constant source of enjoyment and interest; we never ceased to admire their beautiful plumage and their delightful little flight songs, during our long drives across the grassy plains. The habits and the songs of the two species were somewhat similar, but we soon learned to distinguish the males by the color patterns in the tails, which were conspicuous at a long distance. Though their ranges were by no means clearly separated, it seemed to me that this species was more abundant on the more grassy prairies and McCown's was commoner on the more barren plains.

Nests were found with fresh eggs on June 2 and 10, 1905.

Almost all of the Longspurs, of both species, had disappeared from the plains by August first.

113. *Rhynchophanes mccownii*. McCOWN'S LONGSPUR.— Very common on the prairies in 1906, particularly on the barren hills north of Maple Creek.

We saw very few in 1905, but we spent very little time that season in the localities where we found them so common in 1906. Two nests with eggs were found on June 13, 1906. Their eggs were easily distinguished from those of the Chestnut-collared Longspur but their nests were similar, sunken into the ground in plain sight on the open prairie. They were not easy to find, however.

Their songs were similar to those of the foregoing species but somewhat louder and richer. The male makes about three song flights per minute, of about 8 or 10 seconds duration, feeding quietly on the ground during the intervals of 10 or 12 seconds. He rises slowly and silently to a height of 10 or 15 feet and then floats downward, on outstretched wings and

widespread tail, pouring out a most delightful, rich, warbling, bubbling song.

114. *Poocetes gramineus confinis*. WESTERN VESPER SPARROW.— Abundant on the prairies. Another familiar bird of the grassy plains but not so attractive as the Longspurs. Nests with eggs were found on May 29 and June 3, 1905, and on June 7 and July 12, 1906. A favorite victim of the Cowbird.

115. *Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus*. WESTERN SAVANNA SPARROW.— Very common on the meadows and around the edges of the sloughs and lakes. Seen occasionally on the higher prairies. A nest with eggs was taken on June 5, 1905, and another on July 6, 1906.

116. *Coturniculus bairdii*. BAIRD'S SPARROW.— Uncommon, but quite a number of pairs were located in the grassy hollows on the prairies. These pairs were widely scattered but we could generally locate them by their peculiar songs in nearly all suitable localities. Their song is somewhat intermediate between those of the Savanna and the Grasshopper Sparrows. The birds are very shy and we experienced some difficulty in collecting them. No nests were found.

117. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.— I saw a few and collected one specimen in the Cypress Hills on May 31, 1905. Prof. Macoun recorded them as breeding there.

Dr. Bishop found them in the Cypress Hills, on July 28, 1906, keeping to the summits.

118. *Spizella socialis*. CHIPPING SPARROW.— Rare. I saw two and collected one of them in the Cypress Hills on May 31, 1905. Dr. Bishop also collected one on Mackaye Creek on July 11, 1906.

119. *Spizella pallida*. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.— Very common in the underbrush along the creeks and among the sandhills. In the latter locality we found 5 nests in one day, June 3, 1905. The nests were in low underbrush, within a few inches of the ground, and almost invariably contained Cowbird's eggs.

120. *Junco mearnsi*. PINK-SIDED JUNCO.— "I secured a female and two young in the Cypress Hills on July 27, and a male and one young several miles away on the following day. No others noted." (Bishop.)

121. *Melospiza cinerea juddi*. DAKOTA SONG SPARROW.— Uncommon in the underbrush along Skull Creek and Maple Creek and in the Cypress Hills.

The birds which we collected were referred to this form, though I doubt if this form will stand the test of a much needed revision of the Song Sparrows of eastern North America. In my opinion there are at least two and possibly three eastern races worthy of recognition. To one of these forms, found on the Atlantic coast, our Saskatchewan birds and the North Dakota birds bear a close resemblance.

122. *Pipilo maculatus arcticus*. ARCTIC TOWHEE.— Uncommon in the Maple Creek and Skull Creek timber. No nests were found. "Tolerably common on Mackaye Creek." (Bishop.)

123. **Zamelodia melanocephala.** BLACK-HEADED GROSBK.— On June 14, 1905, in the Maple Creek timber, I heard a grosbeak singing which I thought was a Rose-breasted, but on investigation I was surprised to see a fine male Black-headed Grosbeak; I saw what was probably the same bird later in the day but was too close to it to shoot it. On June 16, 1906, about four miles farther up the creek, I was fortunate enough to find a nest of this species containing 3 fresh eggs, which I secured with the male bird, which was incubating.

Dr. Bishop saw another pair on Maple Creek on July 5, 1906. On Mackaye Creek, July 11, 1906, he and Dr. Dwight secured a pair of the birds and 2 eggs. This species is not recorded as occurring in this region by Prof. Macoun.

124. **Calamospiza melanocorys.** LARK BUNTING.— Not noted at all in 1905, except one doubtful record of a female seen June 2. Very common in 1906 on the prairies and hills north of Maple Creek and about Crane Lake. A nest with 4 young, under a little sage brush, was found on June 23, 1906.

This delightful songster, known as the "Prairie Bobolink," is another of the striking and attractive features of the prairies. Its flight song is particularly rich and joyous. "All through the breeding season each female seen seemed to have at least two males in attendance." (Bishop.) The males were certainly much more abundant, or more in evidence, than the females.

125. **Petrochelidon lunifrons.** CLIFF SWALLOW.— Locally common. A large breeding colony was found in a cattle shed at Reedy Lake. The nests were plastered onto the rough poles, supporting the roof on the inside. Many of them contained fresh eggs on June 10, 1905, and on June 25, 1906. Eggs were found as late as August 2, 1906.

126. **Hirundo erythrogaster.** BARN SWALLOW.— Fairly common about the ranches. Eggs were found on August 2, 1906.

127. **Iridoprocne bicolor.** TREE SWALLOW.— Rare. I recorded a few birds seen in the timber along the creeks in 1905 and saw one at Hay Lake on June 6, 1906. None were collected and none seen by the others in 1906. It was recorded, however, by Prof. Macoun at Indian Head, Crane Lake and Medicine Hat. Mr. Day found a nest with 4 eggs in the Skull Creek timber on June 9, 1905.

128. **Riparia riparia.** BANK SWALLOW.— Common. A few small colonies were found nesting in cut banks or sand pits.

129. **Ampelis cedrorum.** CEDAR WAXWING.— A few were seen, some of which were collected, in the Maple Creek timber on June 30 and July 5, 1906. Others were collected on Mackaye Creek on July 11 and in the Cypress Hills on July 27, 1906.

130. **Vireo olivaceus.** RED-EYED VIREO.— Dr. Bishop saw several and shot one in the Maple Creek timber on June 8, 1906. Recorded by Prof. Macoun as breeding at Indian Head.

131. **Vireo philadelphicus.** PHILADELPHIA VIREO.— One was secured by Dr. Bishop in the Maple Creek timber, on June 8, 1906, in the great wave of migrants that passed through on that day.



132. *Mniotilta varia*. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—Probably a common migrant. We saw a few in the Maple Creek timber on May 29, 1905, which were undoubtedly migrating, as none were seen later. None were collected.

133. *Helminthophila rubricapilla*. NASHVILLE WARBLER.—“In my notes for June 8, 1906, I wrote: ‘saw plainly a Nashville Warbler.’ This bird was within a few feet of me in the timber, and low down, so that I saw it plainly and hardly think I could be mistaken in the species.” (Bishop.) Not recorded by Prof. Macoun.

134. *Helminthophila celata*. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER.—Reported as a migrant by Prof. Macoun. “Common in families of flying young in the Cypress Hills, July 25–30. No adult males found. The young were all in juvenal plumage, or moulting into first winter.” (Bishop.)

Dr. Bishop called all his birds *Helminthophila celata orestera* (Oberholser), the Rocky Mountain Orange-crowned Warbler.

135. *Helminthophila peregrina*. TENNESSEE WARBLER.—On May 29, 1905, I saw a bird, within 10 feet of me in the Maple Creek timber, which I was quite sure was a Tennessee Warbler, but none were collected. This species was reported by Prof. Macoun as a common migrant.

136. *Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Abundant in the timber; the commonest warbler. A nest was found building on May 30 1905, and a nest with young on June 30, 1906.

137. *Dendroica auduboni*. AUDUBON'S WARBLER.—Mr. Eastgate shot a female with food in its mouth, in a grove of pines in the Cypress Hills on July 28, 1906.

138. *Dendroica maculosa*. MAGNOLIA WARBLER.—The only one seen was collected in the Maple Creek timber on June 8, 1906, an adult male, probably migrating.

139. *Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*. GRINNELL'S WATER-THRUSH.—One was taken in the Maple Creek timber, on June 8, 1906, in the wave of migrants.

140. *Geothlypis tolmiei*. MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER.—I saw a few in the Cypress Hills, on May 31, 1905, but none were collected. Prof. Macoun reported it as breeding there. Dr. Bishop found it common there in families from July 25 to 30, 1906.

141. *Geothlypis trichas arizela*. PACIFIC COAST YELLOW-THROAT.—Uncommon in the underbrush along the creeks, in the Cypress Hills and in the drier portions of the sloughs. Dr. Bishop referred all the birds taken to this subspecies. Prof. Macoun recorded *brachidactyla* as a common summer resident.

142. *Setophaga ruticilla*. AMERICAN REDSTART.—A few were seen in the Maple Creek timber on May 29, 1905. Probably a common migrant. One was taken on Maple Creek on June 8, 1906.

143. *Anthus spragueii*. SPRAGUE'S PIPIT.—Entirely overlooked in 1905, probably because we did not know where and how to look for it or realize the difficulty of seeing it or hearing it. It was really fairly common on the prairies in 1906, frequently heard and less frequently seen.

The males spend much of their time way up in the sky, almost out of sight, and it is only occasionally that one can be seen, as a mere speck against some white cloud; in the blue sky it is almost invisible. But if one has sharp ears its faint song can be frequently heard. When it descends to the ground, as it does at long intervals, it is very shy and difficult to approach, flying off in long bounding flights. We succeeded in collecting very few birds, though we spent considerable time in fruitless chasing.

144. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD.—Fairly common in the timber and underbrush along the creeks. Two nests with heavily incubated eggs were found on June 25, 1906.

145. *Toxostoma rufum*. BROWN THRASHER.—Uncommon in the timber belts in 1906. Not seen at all in 1905.

146. *Troglodytes aëdon aztecus*. WESTERN HOUSE WREN.—Very abundant in the timber along the creeks, where it was the commonest and most ubiquitous bird and one of the most persistent singers. Nests in nearly every available hollow in the box elders. Numerous nests were found each season, with eggs, as early as June 5 and as late as June 30, 1906.

147. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREADED NUTHATCH.—“Heard twice in a tangled thicket at the summit of the Cypress Hills on July 29, a Nuthatch that I believed to be this species. Was unable to get a glimpse of it.” (Bishop.)

148. *Parus atricapillus septentrionalis*. LONG-TAILED-CHICKADEE.—“Tolerably common in the Cypress Hills and the upper part of Maple Creek.” (Bishop.)

149. *Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola*. WILLOW THRUSH.—Common in the timber along the creeks, but very shy. Its Veery song was frequently heard in the dense shady thickets, but we seldom got even a glimpse of the birds and succeeded in collecting only two.

150. *Hylocichla aliciae*. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH.

151. *Hylocichla aliciae bicknelli*. BICKNELL'S THRUSH.—In the great wave of migrating birds, that swarmed through the Maple Creek timber on June 8, 1906, thrushes were very numerous. Most of them were probably of these two forms, but only two were collected, one of which proved to be *aliciae* and one *bicknelli*, so that we were unable to determine which was the commoner. Neither form was seen elsewhere or on any other date.

The specimen of *bicknelli* collected was a female and very small even for this race.

152. *Hylocichla ustulata almæ*. ALMA'S THRUSH.—“Eastgate shot an *ustulata*, probably *almæ*, in juvenal plumage, in a thicket of young poplars on the summit of the Cypress Hills on July 27. The parent, though heard, was so shy we could not see her.” (Bishop.)

153. *Merula migratoria propinqua*. WESTERN ROBIN.—Common in the Maple Creek timber. Nests with eggs were found on June 14, 1905, and June 5, 1906.

Prof. Macoun listed the eastern Robin in this region, but all of our birds were *propinqua*.

## ERRATUM.

In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXIV, plate xviii, fig. 1, for "Nests of Western Grebe," read "Nests of California Grebe."

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## RED-SPOTTED BLUETHROAT OF ALASKA.

BY S. BUTURLIN.

IN Part IV, p. 15, of the monumental work of Dr. R. Ridgway, 'The Birds of North and Middle America,' the Alaskan specimens of the Red-spotted Bluethroat are mentioned under the name "*Cyanosylvia succica* (Linnaeus)."

Though having seen no specimens procured in Alaska I do not hesitate to state, that Alaskan specimens do not belong to the typical form, *Cyanecula* (or *Cyanosylvia*) *succica succica* (L.), so common in summer in Scandinavia and northern Europe generally, but are in fact identical with the East Siberian form, named by me<sup>1</sup> *C. succica robusta* (in Russian in 'Psovaia i Rusheinaia Okhota,' *i. e.*, 'Hunting and Shooting,' 1907, No. 6, published 13 March, p. 87; in German in 'Ornith. Monatsb.,' Maiheft, 1907, p. 79).

First of all, the dimensions given by Dr. Ridgway for Alaskan specimens (*i. e.*, p. 16) are too large for *C. succica* (L.) typ. but quite agree with those of *C. succica robusta*, as will be seen from dimensions given below for different forms of this species. Secondly, it must be kept in mind, that Bluethroats are not met with migrating or wintering anywhere in America south of Alaska; therefore it is to be presumed, that birds summering in Alaska migrate in autumn westward to the mainland of Asia, and pass the winter there; but all Bluethroats of Eastern Asia belong to the form *robusta*.

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<sup>1</sup> Evidently *after* the fourth part of the great work above mentioned was in print.—S. B.